

Amendment to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0001] This application is ~~related to~~ **a continuation of the** U.S. Patent Application No. 09/852,402, filed May 9, 2001, entitled "FRAMEWORKS FOR EFFICIENT REPRESENTATION OF STRING OBJECTS IN JAVA PROGRAMMING ENVIRONMENTS," (~~Atty. Docket No. SUN1P826/P6071~~) which is hereby incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.